



Iowa Department of Human Services

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Governor

Kim Reynolds
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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1479

DATE: February 16, 2015

TO: Iowa Medicaid Nursing Facility, Skilled Nursing Facility, and Nursing Facility for Persons with Mental Illness (NF/MI) Providers

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: 2015 Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Grant (CMPQII)

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to announce the availability of the Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Grants for 2015.

Section 1919 of the Social Security Act and Iowa Code section 249A.19 allows the state to impose civil money penalties when a health care facility is not in substantial compliance with one or more participation requirements. These penalties may range from \$50 to \$10,000 per day, depending on the kind of deficiency recorded by the Department of Inspections and Appeals.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) permits states to direct collected civil penalty funds for quality improvement projects that enhance the quality of care and the quality of life for nursing facility residents. Grant applications are available to various interested stakeholders such as nursing facilities, consumer groups, professional associations, ombudsmen and quality improvement organizations.

Submission of Grant Proposals

Grants are available only for quality improvement initiatives that are outside the scope of normal operations for the nursing facility or other applicant. Grants cannot be used as replacement funding for goods or services that the applicant already offers. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the initiative will improve the quality of life or quality of care of nursing facility residents.

The IME strongly encourages potential applicants to consider initiatives that have direct measurable outcomes for nursing facility residents, such as projects to reduce re-hospitalizations, to reduce the use of off-label anti-psychotic medications, or to prevent falls.

For the complete requirements and for interested qualified parties wishing to apply, please access the [Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative \(CMPQII\) Grant Proposal Guidelines](http://www.ime.state.ia.us/docs/470-4869.pdf)¹ on the DHS website.

¹ <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/docs/470-4869.pdf>

For consideration for a grant award, proposals must be received at the following address by 4:30 p.m. CST on April 30, 2015. Grant proposals received after the deadline shall not be considered. Applications should be mailed or delivered to the Issuing Officer:

Don Gookin
Issuing Officer
Bureau of Long Term Care
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
100 Army Post Road
Des Moines, IA 50315

Grant Awards

Grants will be awarded beginning July 1, 2015. A grant award review committee appointed by the State Medicaid Director shall review and evaluate all complete grant proposals received by the deadline for submission. The final decision to award a grant is at the discretion of the State Medicaid Director.

Grants for approved applications shall be awarded through a contract entered into by the department and the applicant. Grant funds shall be distributed pursuant to contractual obligations. **All grant awards are subject to approval by CMS.** Applicants should expect that the federal approval and contracting phase will take up to six months. No grant activities can be reimbursed until a contract is in place.

Written Questions

Applicants may submit written questions regarding this announcement. Any ambiguity regarding this announcement shall be addressed through the question and answer process. Questions must be emailed to the Issuing Officer. Please submit written questions to dgookin@dhs.state.ia.us.